(b) the steps Government are taking to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) No alarming increase in number of cases of illegal felling has been reported by the States. However, cases of illegal felling to take place and action is taken by the State Governments as per the provisions of existing Rules and Acts. For protection of forests various measures such as patrolling of the areas, engagement of watchers, constitution of protection committees, construction of watch towers etc are being taken by the State Forest Departments. In addition, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Integrated Forest Protection', financial assistance is also made available to States/UTs Governments for purchase of vehicles, construction of buildings, communication equipments, arms & ammunition etc. to take up effective measures for protrection of forest areas.

"E-waste"

2793. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that India generates 1,50,000 tonnes of Waste from Electric and Electrical Equipment (WEEE) annually, which poses a serious threat to environment and human health;

(b) whether Government are also aware of the fact that Himachal Pradesh has become a favourite e-waste dumping ground; and

(c) If so, the measure Government propose to take to regulate disposal of e-waste?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) Based on a survey conducted under the guidance of Central Pollution Control Broad (CPCB), it has been estimated that about 1,46,000 tonnes of such Waste from Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) is generated annually. According to the information provided by the Himachal Pradesh Pollution Control Board the State is not becoming a e-waste dumping ground. The provisions under hazardous waste (management and handling) Rules 1989 as amended in 2000 and 2003 includes e-waste. The residues and wastes generated from the operations in electronic industry are considered as

hazardous wastes and are listed at Sl. No. 31 of Schedule 1 of these Rules. Further, as per the provisions of these Rules; Electrical, and Electronics Assemblies are covered under Category B-1110 in Schedule 3 thereunder which are applicable for import and export of hazardous wastes. Also the import of wastes under this category are only permitted for direct reuse and not for recycling or final disposal. The CPCB has undertaken a study for the preparation of a Guideline. Document for Environmentally Sound recycling of E-waste, for use by the State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committee of the Union Territories and the concerned Industrial units.

Task force on climate change

2794. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to set up a high level task force to deal with emerging climate change scenario;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the major issues on which the task force is proposed to work; and

(d) the expenditure likely to be incurred there on during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government is in the process of forming an Expert Committee to study the impacts of climate change and to identify measures that we may have to take in the future.

Conservation of Wetlands

2795. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to include Daha, Kuanria and Kanjia in Orissa State under the National Wetland Conservation Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;